

Council Acceptance Speech.

I take to the podium to accept the responsibility that Council has bestowed upon me to be the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality from today until the end of this term of Council.

Honourable Speaker, it is befitting that I start by congratulating you for being appointed as the Speaker of Council. Same goes to the Chief Whip. This only says this house has taken nod of your leadership qualities and that we have shown confidence that you will be able to steer this ship.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you - Councillors who have been elected to represent their constituencies in this august house.

Above all we have to thank the masses – the people of Polokwane – who went out to cast their votes so that they can have a voice in the decision making process. We are humbled as this shows that as a country and a nation we subscribe to deepen democracy and participation in governance system. I'm humbled that for the two years that I have been here I felt that the people have welcomed me and treated me with respect.

Honourable Speaker, as I continue in this new term; for me it is an honour and equally a humbling experience to accept the appointment. I must say that as a woman, this appointment says the African National Congress is indisputable when it says there shall be equal representation in leadership positions.

I commit this morning that our achievements can never be measured by the quality of speeches we make, but by the vigour we put in our resolve to improve the lives of the masses that sent us here. I'm sure that this is not necessarily a moment to celebrate, but a moment to gather more strength and drive in preparation to continue in our journey to deliver on our mandate of a better life for all.

All political parties in this house as different as we are, we need to come to terms with the fact that elections have been conducted and the people have spoken. Now is the time to put our differences aside and work as a collective towards attaining our goal which is to accelerate service delivery and improve the conditions of our people. Norman Vincent Peale, father of positive thinking taught us that the positive thinking is not about expecting the best to happen every time, it is also about accepting that whatever happens is the best for that moment.

It is only befitting that we move forward united with a resolve to put the people first and build on the successes that the previous Council built for us. This unity is based on the acknowledgement that local government is about the real issues that affect delivery, but not divisions fueled for political gain. It is only when we are united that we can build on our strategies to propel this municipality forward. Oliver Reginald Tambo conceded that the “past cannot be changed, forgotten, edited or erased. It can only be accepted. We owe it to our communities.

Honourable Speaker, I expect cooperation from Councillors, both from the ruling party and the opposition party in my role as the Executive Mayor for the duration of the term. My role would be to liaise with all parties involved in Council to canvass major decisions and share with them major decisions that the Mayoral Committee would have taken.

I take this opportunity to invite all of you to join the municipality in its vision and to pledge your commitment to improve our city and beyond its municipal jurisdiction. Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998 Section 60, states that “if a municipal council has more than nine members, the Executive Mayor:

- must appoint a mayoral committee
- may delegate specific responsibilities to each member of the committee
- may delegate any of the EM powers to respective members
- may dismiss a member of the mayoral committee

Therefore, a team that will be assisting me as my Executive is as follows:

### **Full-time Position.**

Finance and LED: Charlie Molepo

Technical Services: William Kganyago

Roads, Transport and Stormwater: Francina Kubyana

Spatial and Land use: Haffis Shaik

Administration and Governance: Reinet Setati

### **Part-Time**

Waste and Environment: Jennifer Malope

Housing: Tshepo Nkwe

Energy: Mashabela Steve

Community Safety: Eunice Maraba

Sports and Special Focus: Josephine Maja

Let me make special mention of the appreciation we have for the relationship that we continue to enjoy with the traditional leadership within our jurisdiction. Our heartfelt and sincere condolences to the royal families of Kgoši Mamabolo MR and Kgoši Molepo ...

As a result of the incorporation of Aganang Municipality we welcome into our kraal the three traditional leaders of GaMaraba led by Kgošigadi Maraba, Mashashane led by Kgoši Mashashane and GaMatlala led by Kgošigadi Matlala. I take this opportunity to say welcome to Polokwane and that my first task after the induction will be to come visit you in your kraals. I will also ensure that the first mayoral Imbizo is held in the cluster so that we can get closer to the people and to hear their needs first hand.

I would also like to take this **opportunity to thank the party which sent me, the ever victorious African National Congress for conferring on me such an honour, trust**

and privilege to provide political and strategic leadership to the heart beat of Limpopo Province, the City of Polokwane. I stand here without a shadow of doubt that my deployment to this city is based on the trust that I will not compromise on the resounding mandate given to **me** by the people on the promise to deliver services and to build opportunities for the city's future.

I thank the business sector, the media, our traditional leaders and all stakeholders for being here and I am looking forward to a positive working relationship with all of you. Help us improve, keep us on our toes. Let us all take part in building our beautiful city.

Honorable Speaker, please allow me to accept this appointment on behalf of all the women of Polokwane because the victories of all the women in here will be their victories .

Malibongwe!

Thank You.